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**United States Patent** [19]

Davidsohn et al.

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[54] **VIDEOPHONE INTERACTIVE MAILBOX FACILITY SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PROCESSING INFORMATION**

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[\*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,606,361.

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

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[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **H04M 11/00**; H04N 7/12

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **348/14**; 379/93.17; 379/93.12; 364/226

[58] Field of Search ..... 379/93-99, 90, 379/91, 90.01, 93.01, 93.12, 93.17-93.28; 348/14-20; 364/401, 405, 226

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A videophone interactive mailbox facility system for processing of information to conduct a transaction which includes a user station, a vendor station, and a central data center. The user station has a videophone for viewing information sent or received to conduct a transaction; an encryption encoder and a decryption decoder for safeguarding the information sent or received; and a touch pad for inputting the information into the videophone. The vendor station has a computer for the transmission and receipt of vendor-type information to or from the central data center for conducting a transaction; and an encryption encoder and a decryption decoder for message privacy and transaction authentication of the information sent or received. The central data center is electronically connected to the user station and to the vendor station and includes a computer processor for centralized transmitting, receipt of and storage of all information and transactions with the user station and the vendor station. The computer is electronically connected to one or more telephones and includes a display screen for monitoring the transactions. Also included is an encryption encoder and a decryption decoder for authentication of the information sent or received, and a network interface for electronically connecting and making compatible the computer used by the vendor station.

**15 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**